

a plurality of terminals housed in the connector housing each having a press-fit contact exposed from the first surface;

a flat cable having a plurality of conductors each in contact with the respective press-fit contact; and

a cover covering the first surface and the side surfaces of the connector housing; wherein the flat cable is curved along the first surface and the side surfaces by the cover so as to be in contact with the press-fit contacts.

2. (Amended) The connection structure of claim 1, further comprising:

a pair of slits between the cover and the base plate that allows a direction of the flat cable therefrom to be regulated.

3. (Amended) A connection structure for connecting a flat cable to a connector, comprising:

a connector housing protruding from a base plate comprising:

a first surface substantially parallel to the base plate; and

a pair of side surfaces on both sides of the first surface;

a plurality of terminals housed in the connector housing each having a press-fit contact exposed from the first surface;

a flat cable having a plurality of conductors each in contact with the respective press-fit contact;

a cover covering the first surface and the side surfaces of the connector housing; and

a pair of slits between the cover and the base plate that allows a direction of the flat cable therefrom to be regulated;

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wherein the flat cable is curved along the first surface and the side surfaces by the cover so as to be in contact with the press-fit contacts; wherein the base plate further comprises a pair of grooves each communicating with the respective slit and having a width which broadens toward each end of the base plate; and

wherein the grooves house the flat cable.

4. (Amended) The connection structure of claim 1, wherein;

the cover is integrally connected with the connector housing by a hinge.

5. (New) A connection structure for connecting a flat cable to a connector, comprising:

a connector housing protruding from a base plate comprising:

a first surface in a plane different from the base plate; and

a pair of side surfaces each adjacent to the first surface;

a plurality of terminals in the connector housing having retaining contacts on the first surface;

a flat cable having a plurality of conductors in contact with the retaining contacts;

and

a cover covering the first surface and the side surfaces of the connector housing, the cover holding the flat cable adjacent to the first surface and side surfaces.

6. (New) The connection structure of claim 5, further comprising a pair of slits between the cover and the base plate configured to allow orientation of the flat cable.

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7. (New) The connection structure of claim 6, wherein the base plate further comprises a pair of grooves that widen in width as the groove extends from the pair of slits, the grooves housing the flat cable.

8. (New) The connection structure of claim 4, wherein the cover is integrally connected to the connector housing.

REMARKS

Applicants submit this Amendment in reply to the Office Action mailed March 31, 2003.

In this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1-4 solely to improve clarity, and add new claims 5-8 to better define the claimed invention.

Before entry of this Amendment, claims 1-4 were pending in this application. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-8 are pending in this application.

The originally-filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the amendments to claims 1-4 and new claims 5-8. No new matter was introduced.

In the Office Action of March 31, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonobe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,954,537) ("Sonobe"), and rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonobe in view of Belanger, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,885,091) ("Belanger"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

As an initial matter, Applicant gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claim 3. Applicant has rewritten claim 3 into independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 3 is now in *prima facie*

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